

It should be emphasized that questions of aesthetics and conservation apparently are not at issue. The present policy is defended on the grounds that a sustained yield of timber can be attained over the years.

Reputable independent graduate foresters, including the present head of the School of Forest Economics at the Syracuse University College of Forestry, have described this policy as unnecessarily wasteful. A competent study, prepared for the Forest Service, suggests that the net waste of timber under present policies could average 3 to 5 billion board feet a year over the next several decades.

The Department of Agriculture publicly has stated harvesting this presently-wasting timber through an accelerated cutting program would substantially increase the available supply of timber over the next few decades without any diminution thereafter from the presently planned sustainable yields.

A rationale appears to be avoidance of disruption of the economic situation of the local communities, through a "temporary" economic boom of over forty years duration, based on "catch-up" cutting. The Forest Service thus appears to be advocating the waste of as much as 160 billion board feet of timber, worth a conservative \$8 billion, to avoid prosperity now, and dislocation forty years hence.

The greatest part of this timber is exportable on very competitive terms--or could replace imports we otherwise must obtain, because of our growing net deficit position on timber and wood products.

On world export markets, in the form of sawn lumber, this wood at present prices possibly would earn in excess of \$10 to \$12 billion. Literally green gold.

It is worth emphasizing that no significant economic dislocation need occur from an accelerated cut to harvest this U.S. timber. The Japanese import requirements bulge through the 1980's, and then taper off. By the late 1980's an increasing stream of harvests of native Japanese timber, now being developed under an intensified forest management program, will permit a tapering off of imports.